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Charged in nuke secrets sale

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—
James D. Harper Jr., a Mountain
View, Calif., businessman, was
charged yesterday with selling to
the Soviet Union "a windfall of
intelligence information" about
Pentagon plans for saving American Minuteman intercontinental
missiles from a Russian nuclear
attack, the FBI said.

His price was a record \$250,000, the FBI said.

Harper was arraigned in federal court in San Francisco and ordered held without bail pending another hearing Oct. 27. He told U.S. Magistrate Owen Woodruff that he intended "to cooperate with the government in every way I can to expedite the proceedings."

FBI papers filed with the court provide the most comprehensive account yet of how the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, has organized worldwide to steal American atomic secrets. In this case, the FBI said, Harper was introduced in 1975 to Polish intelligence officers who had a "shopping list" of U.S. military secrets that the Kremlin had ordered Warsaw Pact intelligence agencies to steal from the West.

The FBI was told that KGB officials were "extremely excited" by the docu-

ments. The Polish operatives who allegedly dealt with Harper had their authorization in a document signed by Yuri Andropov, then KGB chief. FBI Agent Allan Power, in an affidavit, said that Harper met the Poles through a Sunnyvale, Calif., manufacturer, William Bell Hugle, owner of Hugle International. Hugle has not been charged with any crime.

IN A BIZARRE TWIST, the FBI said an unidentified attorney for Harper approached the agency in September 1981, revealing that he had a client—Harper—who was willing to act as an FBI counterintelligence operative in return for immunity from prosecution for selling defense secrets to the Poles. It was not clear why Harper went to the authorities.

But FBI records indicate that a high-ranking Polish intelligence officer in Warsaw defected and had been talking to U.S. authorities about Hugel and Harper. It appeared that the unidentified officer, now in the U.S., had been recruited in Warsaw by the CIA before defecting.

U.S. officials said a damage assessment is under way to determine just how much the Soviets learned about the Army's Minuteman defense plans.

According to the FBI affidavit, Harper obtained the defense information from his late wife, Ruby Louise Schuler, who worked as an executive secretary to a high official in a Palo Alto, Calif., defense contractor, Systems Control Inc.